

DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

County/State Liaison Office
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(916) 653-6649



March 12, 2004

TO: County Agricultural Commissioners

SUBJECT: Appropriate Use of Unrefunded Gas Tax Funds

I have received several inquiries recently from county agricultural commissioners and Department staff regarding the authorized use of Unrefunded Gas Tax (UGT) funds to conduct various county program activities. The purpose of this letter is to clarify the appropriate use of UGT funds for these activities.

The Food and Agricultural Code of California, Section 224c states that the UGT funds are “to be paid to the counties as partial reimbursement for county expenses for carrying out agricultural programs authorized by this code that are supervised by the department.” Program activities that **ARE** eligible for reimbursement have been identified in the 2002 County Agricultural Commissioners Annual Financial Statement Procedures Manual to include pest management, pest eradication and several others.

Pest management activities are further identified in the manual in part, on Page 7, Item 3k, to include “Operation of CDFA-approved predatory animal control programs, including federal contract expenditures,” which includes the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services, Animal Damage Control-Wildlife Services.

Pest eradication activities are further identified in the manual in part, on Page 6, Item 2a, to include “Eradication of infestations of pests that are new or of limited distribution in accordance with federal, state, or county programs;” and Item 2b “Conducting pest eradication activities in conjunction with State eradication programs;” which includes county activities conducted in conjunction with the Exotic Newcastle Disease Eradication Program.

The manual also specifically identifies several program activities that are **NOT** eligible for the use of UGT on Page 16, under “Other Programs-County Programs Not Performed Under the Authority of the Food and Agricultural Code,” including Item 12a, “Animal control (domestic).” Other activities that counties cannot perform under the authority of the Food and Agricultural Code, or the direction of the Secretary include enforcement of county ordinances against genetically modified organisms.

If you have any questions please call me at the number listed above.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by Ed Williams on March 12, 2004

Ed Williams
County/State Liaison

CC: AG Kawamura, Secretary
Chuck Ahlem, Undersecretary
David Nunenkamp, Deputy Secretary

Bob Wynn, Statewide Pierce’s Disease Corrdinator
Valerie Brown, Deputy Secretary
Steve Shaffer, Director of Agricultural Environmental
Stewardship